

CALFED

CATEGORY III

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Title: Water Diversion Screening

Applicant: California Department of Fish and Game
1416 Ninth Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Project Description and Primary Biological/Ecological Objectives:

The California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) requests funds to install suitable fish screens on selected water diversions. The screens will be constructed using the latest in fish screen technology and will meet the criteria established by the DFG and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) for screen structure and placement. There are four subprojects located on the Sacramento River, tributaries to the Sacramento River, and the Suisun Marsh.

Implementation of this proposal will result in reduced entrainment losses at water diversions of special status species, juvenile salmonids and other anadromous and resident fish species.

Project Approach and Schedule:

The DFG has identified water diversions that are considered to be a high priority for screening. The DFG will assist in design, select subcontractors and in some cases build and install the screens using DFG personnel at these sites. All necessary environmental documents would be prepared and required permits obtained during the planning process.

Project Justification:

The CALFED Bay-Delta Program has identified fish entrainment from unscreened or inadequately screened water diversions as a major stressor contributing to the decline of priority fish species. The proposed project would reduce entrainment and provide working examples of fish screen installations to promote future projects.

Budget Costs and Third Party Impacts:

The DFG is requesting \$3,230,850 to fund the entire project. For screens constructed on private water diversions, cost shares in the form of contributions for construction, use of equipment, or providing labor will be required. The diversion owner will be requested to assist in operation and maintenance for the life of the fish screen. On DFG water diversions, the DFG will maintain the screens.

Applicant Qualifications:

The DFG has been actively constructing and maintaining fish screens since the early 1950s. The DFG has three screen shops that operate over 100 fish screens of various sizes and configurations. DFG personnel at these installations are skilled in all phases of fish screen construction and maintenance. DFG personnel have remained current with the latest screen technology through training courses and the establishment of a statewide fish screen committee.

Project Evaluation:

The efficiency of the fish screens will be inspected for compliance with current DFG and NMFS fish screen criteria. A final project report will be prepared and submitted upon completion of all the project tasks.

Local Support and Coordination with Other Programs:

There are hundreds of unscreened water diversions in the Ecosystem Restoration Program Plan (ERPP) study area. Local, State and Federal agencies as well as private landowners and water users are becoming increasingly aware of the need to reduce entrainment of fish in water diversions. This is particularly true with the increasing number of fish species being listed under State and Federal endangered species acts. It is important that the DFG take a leading role in screening priority water diversions as well as providing examples of the latest in fish screen technology for other programs to follow.